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E.O. 12065:RDS-1 ,/28/99 (SHULMAN, MARSHALL)

TAGS:UR, CU, US

SUBJECT: SHULMAN CONVERSATION WITH BESSMERTNYKH

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SHULMAN CALLED IN BESSMERTNYKH AFTERNOON OF JULY 27 AND MADE FOLLOWING -POINTS ON SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN CUBA:

--WE ARE WATCHING SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN CUBA VERY CLOSELY.

--CHANGES IN PATTERNS IN YOUR ACTIVITY THERE WHICH INDICATE INCREASED SOVIET OR CUBAN OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY EVOKE SERIOUS CONCERN HERE.

--THE NEW SUBMARINE FACILITY UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN CIEN- FUEGOS BEARS THIS POTENTIAL.

--YOU HAVE ALSO SEEN PRESS REPORTS AND THE HEIGHTENED PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL-INTEREST IN-SUCH ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF ORGANIZED SOVIET COMBAT UNITS IN CUBA. THE PRESENT OF SUCH UNITS WOULD BE A MATTER

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OF SERIOUS CONCERN.

--IT IS IMPORTANT FOR MOSCOW TO UNDERSTAND THE SENSITIVITY
AND IMPORTANCE OF THIS MATTER TO US.

BESSMERTNYKH SAID HE HAD BEEN FOLLOWING THE MATTER IN THE
PRESS AND, WHILE HE KNEW OF NO SOVIET ACTIONS WHICH WOULD
JUSTIFY SUCH CONCERN, HE UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
ISSUE AND WOULD REPORT TO MOSCOW.

3. SHULMAN ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REINFORCE BARRY'S
JULY 26 APPROACH TO VASEV ON JOURNALISTS. SHULMAN SAID
IT WAS-ODD THAT MFA CONSIDERED THE-BENSON-KRYLOV CONVERSA-
TION OF MAY 11 TO HAVE BEEN RESPONSE TO OUR APRIL 3
DEMARCHE SINCE KRYLOV HAD SAID AT THAT TIME THAT AN ANSWER
WOULD BE FORTHCOMING IN THE FUTURE. SHULMAN ADDED THAT
WE FOUND THE CASUAL WAY SOVIETS HAD TREATED THIS ISSUE
UNFORTUNATE. WE HAD TOLD SOVIETS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS
THAT THIS ISSUE-WAS OF CONCERN TO HIGHEST LEVELS OF OUR
GOVERNMENT. AS SUCH IT DESERVED A SERIOUS RESPONSE. IN
THE-MEANTIME SHULMAN URGED THAT SOVIETS NOT COMPLICATE
MATTERS BY WITHHOLDING SATTER'S ACCREDITATION AND WARNED
THAT THIS WOULD CERTAINLY TOUCH OFF RETALIATORY ACTION.

4. SHULMAN ALSO TOLD BESSMERTNYKH THAT THE SECRETARY HAD
ASKED HIM TO CONVEY HIS STRONG PERSONAL INTEREST IN
CLARIFICATION OF THE WALLENBURG CASE. BESSMERTNYKH
PROMISED TO UNDERLINE THE SECRETARY'S PERSONAL INTEREST
IN HIS REPORT.

5. FINALLY SHULMAN REMINDED BESSMERTNYKH THAT THE
PRESIDENT'S HOLOCAUST COMMISSION HAD NOT YET RECEIVED
VISAS. BESSMERTNYKH SAID HE HAD SENT AN URGENT VISA
REQUEST PREVIOUS EVENING BUT STILL HAD NO REPLY. IN
RESPONSE TO BESSMERTNYKH'S QUERY SHULMAN CLARIFIED THAT
THE DELEGATION HAD APPOINTMENTS WITH RUDENKO, DEMICHEV
AND THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AMONG OTHERS. VANCE

END OF MESSAGE

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